

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EUR-12 OMB-01 /090 W
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R 030801Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 939

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CE BM

SUBJ: VISIT OF SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER

1. PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE VISITED BURMA JANUARY 28 TO FEBRUARY 2 AND TOURED RANGOON, MANDALAY, PAGAN AND TAUNGGYI. SHE MADE THE USUAL CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER SEIN WIN AND OTHER GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND MET WITH PRESIDENT NE WIN IN PAGAN.

2. TRIP BILLED AS GOOD WILL VISIT, RETURNING NE WIN'S LAST STATE VISIT TO SRI LANKA IN 1967. FROM SRI LANKA VIEWPOINT TRIP EVIDENTLY DESIGNED TO PROMOTE INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT AND COUNTER SOVIET INFLUENCE, AND TO URGE HIGH LEVEL (PREFERABLY PRESIDENTIAL) ATTENDANCE AT FORTHCOMING NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. MRS. BANDARANAIKE AND PRIMIN SEIN WIN ISSUED JOINT COMMUNIQUE REFLECTING MAIN POINTS OF VISIT. IT NOTED "SATISFACTION THAT PEACE NOW REHTORED TO INDOCHINA" AND STRESSED " NEED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO COOPERATE IN ASSISTING POSTWAR ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION"; EXPRESSED "SERIOUS CONCERN AT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE FREE FROM GREAT POWER RIVALRY"; CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND

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"EXPRESSED THEIR DETERMINATION TO WORK TOWARDS ENSURING THE SUCCESS

OF THE (AUGUST 1976) CONFERENCE"; STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CRISIS AND NOTED THEIR GOVERNMENTS "DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE SLOWNESS WITH WHICH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED." COMMUNIQUE ALSO CALLED FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND INVITATION EXTENDED TO PRIMIN SEIN WIN TO VISIT SRI LANKA WHICH WAS ACCEPTED. TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY COLOMBO.

3. COMMENT: VISIT PROVOKED FEW COMMENTS WITHIN LOCAL COMMUNITY ALTHOUGH GUB SEEMED INTENT ON PUTTING ON GOOD SHOW FOR MRS. BAND-ARANAIKE. EXTENSIVE TOURING OF COUNTRYSIDE PROBABLY DESIGNED TO USE UP FAIRLY LENGTHY TIME ALLOTTED FOR VISIT SINCE, ASIDE FROM RICE TRADE (FINANCED LARGELY BY PRC) AND COMMITMENT TO NON-ALIGNED BLOC, BURMA AND SRI LANKA HAVE LITTLE TO TALK ABOUT. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER NE WIN WILL ATTEND AUGUST CONFERENCE; THIS WILL PROBABLY BE DETERMINED BY LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE OF OTHER ASIAN LEADERS (DIP CORPS RUMORS HOLD THAT NORTH KOREA'S KIM IL SUNG, AT LEAST, WILL ATTEND, STOPPING AT RANGOON ENROUTE TO COLOMBO). OSBORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RANGOO00379
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760040-0216
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760287/aaaacyvu.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, CE, BM, (BANDARANAIKE, SIRIMAVO), (NE WIN), (SEIN WIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006